(b) if so, the number of such cases identified by the Department;

(c) whether Government are aware that it is being targeted against selected VIPs and departments to spread the fear of infection; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to prevent this menace and the reasons for this fast spreading infection through this Anthrax powder?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Informations are being received from various parts of the country regarding receipt of envelops containing suspicious powder. National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Delhi, identified as the nodal agency for investigations of any specimen suspected for Anthrax has received 267 envelops/ packets containing suspicious powder for testing till 20th November, 2001. Testing has been completed in 258 samples but none was found positive for Anthrax.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also widely published Do's & Don'ts in the leading National Dailies regarding Anthrax to make the general public aware of precautionary measures to be taken. CD Alert, a monthly Newsletter of National Institute of Communicable Diseases titled 'Bioterrorism-Public Health System to Remain Alert' exclusively on Anthrax has been widely circulated (September-October issue) alongwith a supplementary. It has also been put in the Website of MOHFW for information of general public (http:// mohfw.nic.in). Anthrax is used for its potential to cause mortality and morbidity. It can be easily produced in a laboratory and can survive for a very long period in an adverse condition.

Criterion for opening Central Government Dental Colleges

815. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Government Dental Colleges in each State/ Union Territory;

(b) whether the demand for dental colleges has increased;

(c) if so, the demand thereof, State/Union Territory-wise;

(d) the criterion fixed for establishing a new Central Dental College;

(e) whether Government propose to open new dental colleges; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a), (e) and (f) The Central Government have not started any dental college in any State/Union Territory so far. However, there is a proposal to set up a new dental college at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi with an estimated cost of Rs. 23.21 crore.

(b) and (c) The Central Government have not conducted any specific survey to assess the demand for dental colleges in the country. However, it is for the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to assess the demand of new dental colleges in their States / Union territories while issuing the essentiality certificate for opening of new dental colleges.

(d) An applicant has to fulfil all the conditions laid down in Dental Council of India 'Establishment of new dental colleges, opening of higher courses of study and increase of admission capacity in dental collegs' Regulations, 1993.

Centrally-sponsored health care programmes funded by external agencies

816. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Centrally-sponsored health care programmes being funded by external agencies;

(b) the total amount provided by those agencies during the last three years; and

(c) the details of such external agencies alongwith the States where these schemes are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Five Centrally sponsored schemes for control of major diseases in the country are receiving external assistance.

(b) and (c) Statement indicating the externally aided component of these Centrally sponsored schemes, details of the external agencies alongwith the States is annexed.